Claims

1. A method for providing security to payment card transactions comprising:

receiving information designating an account of a payment cardholder;

in response to receiving account information, forwarding a request over a communications system to a mobile telephone of the payment cardholder for information identifying one or more authorized users of a payment card;

receiving information identifying one or more payment card users from the mobile telephone of the payment cardholder;

in response to receiving payment card user identifying information, creating a validation record associated with the payment cardholder account and one or more authorized payment card users; and

setting the validation record to authorize payment card transactions with use of a payment card by an authorized payment card user.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the communications system includes a short messaging service using a short messaging transport protocol for forwarding a request to a mobile telephone of a payment cardholder as a text message.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving information identifying one or more payment card users includes receiving a verbal password associated with one or more authorized payment card users.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving information identifying one or more payment card users includes receiving a verbal password and a personal identification code associated with one or more authorized payment card users.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving information identifying one or more payment card users includes receiving a verbal password, a personal identification code and a mobile telephone number associated with one or more authorized payment card users.

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6.   The method of claim 1, wherein receiving information designating an account of a payment cardholder includes receiving information from an access device selected from the group consisting of a land-based telephone, a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, an automated teller machine (ATM) and an Internet access device.

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7.   The method of claim 1, wherein creating a validation record includes recording a verbal password associated with one or more authorized payment card users.

8.   The method of claim 7, wherein setting the validation record includes verifying a verbal

10   password provided by a payment card user is similar to a verbal password recorded in the validation record and associated with one or more authorized payment card users.

9.   The method of claim 7, wherein creating the validation record further includes creating a validation record in a database.

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10.   The method of claim 9, wherein the method further comprising providing access by a payment cardholder to the database, receiving information from the payment cardholder, and storing the information in the database.

20   11.   The method of claim 10, wherein receiving information from a payment cardholder and storing the information in the database includes receiving and storing information in the database for pre-authorizing one or more payment card transactions of one or more authorized payment card users for a predetermined period of time.

25   12.   The method of claim 10, wherein receiving information from a payment cardholder and storing the information in the database includes receiving and storing information in the database for blocking one or more payment card transactions of one or more authorized payment card users for a predetermined period of time.

30   13.   The method of claim 10, wherein receiving information from a payment cardholder and storing the information in the database includes receiving and storing information in the database

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for pre-authorizing one or more payment card transactions of one or more authorized payment card users within a predetermined transaction value limit.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein receiving information from a payment cardholder includes receiving information from a mobile telephone.

15. A method for authorizing payment card transactions comprising:
receiving information designating an account of a payment card transaction;
in response to receiving account information, forwarding a request over a communications system to a mobile telephone of the payment cardholder for information identifying one or more payment card users;
receiving information identifying one or more payment card users from the mobile telephone of the payment cardholder;
in response to receiving identifying information, retrieving a validation record associated with the cardholder account and one or more authorized payment card users;
determining whether a status of a payment card user is one of authorized and unauthorized by reconciling information received identifying one or more payment card users with the validation record; and
completing the payment card transaction according to an authorization status of the payment card user.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the communications system includes a short messaging service using a short messaging transport protocol for forwarding a request to a mobile telephone of a payment cardholder as a text message.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein receiving information designating an account of a payment card transaction includes receiving information from an access device selected from the group consisting of a land-based telephone, a personal computer, a personal digital assistant, automated teller machine (ATM) and an Internet access device.

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18. The method of claim 15, wherein receiving information identifying one or more payment card users includes receiving a verbal password associated with one or more authorized payment card users.

5   19. The method of claim 15, wherein receiving information identifying one or more payment card users includes receiving a verbal password and a personal identification code associated with one or more authorized payment card users.

20. The method of claim 15, wherein retrieving a validation record includes retrieving a
10   validation record from a database.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the method further comprising providing access by a payment cardholder to the database, receiving information from the payment cardholder, and storing the information in the database.

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22. The method of claim 21, wherein receiving information from a payment cardholder and storing the information in the database includes receiving and storing information in the database for pre-authorizing one or more payment card transactions of one or more authorized payment card users for a predetermined period of time.

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23. The method of claim 21, wherein receiving information from a payment cardholder and storing the information in the database includes receiving and storing information in the database for blocking one or more payment card transactions of one or more authorized payment card users for a predetermined period of time.

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24. The method of claim 21, wherein receiving information from a payment cardholder and storing the information in the database includes receiving and storing information in the database for pre-authorizing one or more payment card transactions of one or more authorized payment card users within a predetermined transaction value limit.

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25. The method of claim 21, wherein receiving information from a payment cardholder includes receiving information from a mobile telephone.

26. The method of claim 15, wherein completing payment card transactions according to an
5 authorization status of the payment card user includes notifying the payment cardholder of the status of the payment card user.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein notifying the payment cardholder of the status of the payment card user includes forwarding a text message to a mobile telephone of the payment
10 cardholder by a short message service using a short messaging transport protocol.

28. A system for providing information to identify and authorize a payment card user in a payment card authorization system comprising:

a central manager including a database to record and store information identifying a
15 plurality of payment cardholders and payment card users of the authorization system;

the central manager coupled to a Short Message Service module to forward text messages to payment cardholders via mobile telephone; and

the central manager further coupled to a Voice Recognition module and an Interactive Voice Recognition module for voice communication between the central manager and payment
20 cardholders and payment card users via mobile telephone.

29. The system of claim 28, wherein the central manager operates as a software module operating on one or more computers.

25 30. The system of claim 28, wherein the central manager is further coupled to one or more credit authorization systems.

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